

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

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**APPARATUS AND METHOD OF LIMITING APPLICATION PROGRAM USAGE**

10 A method, system and apparatus for limiting the use of  
an application program by a user are provided. A cross-  
reference table containing a list of all users authorized to  
use a computer system as well as a list of all application  
programs installed on a computer system is used. The cross-  
reference table includes an amount of time that each user is  
15 authorized to use an application program. When a user tries  
to execute the application program, a check of the table is  
made to determine whether the user is authorized to use the  
program. If the user is authorized to use the program, the  
program will be allowed to execute and a timer will be  
20 activated. The timer is used to ensure that the user does  
not spend more time using the application program than  
allowed. Another check may be made to ensure that the user  
is not using the application program more often than  
allowed.